

**DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION**

14215 RIVER ROAD

P.O. BOX 530

WALNUT GROVE, CA 95690

Phone (916) 776-2290 / FAX (916) 776-2293

Home Page: [www.delta.ca.gov](http://www.delta.ca.gov)*Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors**Sacramento County Board of Supervisors**San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors**Solano County Board of Supervisors**Yolo County Board of Supervisors**Cities of San Joaquin County**Cities of Contra Costa and Solano Counties**Cities of Sacramento and Yolo Counties**Central Delta Reclamation Districts**North Delta Reclamation Districts**South Delta Reclamation Districts**Business, Transportation and Housing**Department of Food and Agriculture**Natural Resources Agency**State Lands Commission*

May 7, 2010

Phil Isenberg, Chair  
Delta Stewardship Council  
650 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor  
Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Chair Isenberg:

SUBJECT: Request for Transfer of Funding (\$104,250.00) to the Delta Protection Commission for Preparation of Primary Zone Study Required by SBX 7 1

Recognized by the Governor and the Legislature as having a key role in addressing the challenges facing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) has been actively engaged in fulfilling its role pursuant to SBX 7 1.

Among the many tasks assigned to the Commission under the legislation is the mandate to prepare and submit to the Legislature, on or before July 1, 2010, recommendations regarding the potential expansion of or change to the Primary Zone or the Delta, including recommendations on the status of: Rio Vista; Isleton; Bethel Island; Brannan-Andrus Island; Cosumnes/Mokelumne Floodway; and the San Joaquin/South Delta lowlands.

While other assignments to the Commission such as the preparation of an Economic Sustainability Plan and establishment of a Delta National Heritage Area are to be completed within a timeframe that allows for funding from the Commission's 2010-2011 Fiscal Year Budget and the identification of supplemental sources of funding, the Primary Zone Study must be completed within the constraints of the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year (already burdened) Commission annual budget of \$500,000.

Despite this funding challenge, since February the Commission has initiated a process to move forward with completion of the Study within the identified timeframe while attempting to secure funding along the way. Significant progress to date includes: establishment of a Primary Zone Study Committee comprised of seven members of the Commission; scheduling of monthly Commission meetings to consider recommendations of the Committee;

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development of a concept and framework for completion of the study that has taken into consideration public input from two public meetings held thus far; completion and circulation of a Request for Proposals for consultant expertise to guide the process; and selection of a consultant who is confident the process can be completed within the timeframe if it can be initiated in mid-May.

Now the time has come where these efforts will come to a standstill if a contract cannot be executed with the consultant to begin work merely because of a lack of identified funding. In the spirit of working together to accomplish the co-equal goals of ecosystem restoration and providing a reliable water source, the Commission is requesting a transfer of \$104,250.00 from the Council to the Commission to support this important component that will be an integral consideration in the preparation of the Delta Plan.

In that the framework established under the legislation provides for effective utilization of resources and the establishment of collaborative relationships between the Delta Stewardship Council (Council), the Delta Conservancy and the Commission, fulfilling this request is an example of what the Council and the Commission can collaboratively accomplish together as intended under the legislation and by the Governor.

Sincerely,



Don Nottoli  
Chair, Delta Protection Commission  
Member, Delta Stewardship Council

cc: Members, Delta Stewardship Council  
Joe Grindstaff, Interim Executive Officer, Delta Stewardship Council  
Honorable Darrel Steinberg, Senate President pro Tem  
Honorable Joe Simitian, Member of the Senate  
Honorable Lois Wolk, Member of the Senate  
Honorable John Perez, Speaker of the Assembly  
Honorable Joan Buchanan, Member of the Assembly  
Honorable Alyson Huber, Member of the Assembly  
Honorable Jared Huffman, Member of the Assembly  
Honorable Ira Ruskin, Member of the Assembly  
Honorable Mariko Yamada, Member of the Assembly  
Members, Delta Protection Commission Primary Zone Study Committee  
Linda Fiack, Executive Director, Delta Protection Commission